

21. Seem Contrary to EPA Mission

Letter ID	Commenter Name	Commenter Org.	Text
00014	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	<p>Subject: Aquifer exemption for uranium mining project in southwestern South Dakota</p> <p>In regards to the uranium mining exemption- We must not continue to destroy our waterways and lands by allowing big business to dump wastes and bypass the protections provided by the EPA. The EPA's job is to Protect the environment although it appears that Mr Pruitt is unfamiliar with the concept. What could possibly make anyone think that allowing dumping near an aquifer would be a good idea except someone who doesn't live near by and is only concerned about making more money.</p> <p>Mr Pruitt- Step up and protect the environment or step down!</p>
00030		Individual	<p>Subject: Black Hill Aquifers Comment</p> <p>Hello, I am writing today as a concerned citizen of the United States of America. I live in San Diego, CA 92114. As a concerned mother I want to place a comment here for the people and water in the area. It is an unrighteous thing to do if you abandon this site like you have. Our people are getting sick, we can feel it in the spirit of things. Mothers are crying up to the heavens over all the atrocities our government is bestowing on us. Azarga has no compassion for us while contaminating our ground waters. I say "ours" and "my people" because we are one and we feel you as a government bringing shame on yourselves for what you have done so far. We feel you as mothers who mourn for the children yet to get sick from this. We grieve and feel the Holy Spirit grieving with us for those who are sick now and have died unchecked in your balances. Spiritually, if you ignore this and allow these mines to go unchecked your mark will be checked in heaven. You just cant keep grieving the Holy Spirit and think it is ok. We are the poor, the widowed, the downtrodden and your allowing a corporate company to further damaging access against our families. We are connected to each other</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>We want change, we want a government and the agencies associated who will not be able to receive a profit. To push that profit over people mentality. It is deep rooted in our government as they continue to slash employees from your EPA and throw out books that contain important regulations we need. Regulations our children need. We see it as a blatant attack on our right to life and want to bring suit against you all based on this uranium mess. We are expecting a righteous outcome because it is what we are praying for. Do the right thing EPA, Government and leaders of the corporate genocide and clean this mess up ! Because if the letters don't help us stop this injustice, some of us are prepared to go to litigation to bring charges against the multitude of evil profit people, for manslaughter, for neglect, for emotional damages. we are strong and many. Please, do the right thing..</p>
00046		Individual	<p>Subject: Underground Injection Control (UIC) Area Permits to Powertech (USA) Inc</p> <p>I don't know how this could possibly be a good idea. I know that Secretary Pruitt wants to protect business interests over the environment, but that is not the role of the EPA! The agency was developed to PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT. I'd like to see the science saying this is a good</p>

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			idea and that ground water will not be affected. And if 98% of scientists say it's fine, I would expect Secretary Pruitt to use the same criteria he uses to evaluate scientific evidence for climate change to rule against this invasive action!
00056	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	We are carefully taking note of the listening capability of your organization, the EPA, that claims to "protect" the people of this fair country.
00073		Individual	I know it's awful for the environment, I know it can ruin people's lives, So is money the main push here because if it is I ask you to reconsider the actual facts not just what some government official tells you. Please reconsider may 19 to never. I mean this in the most peaceful polite way. All I ask is you research true facts! When you find those "true facts" dig deeper please think for yourself? What did you want to be as a kid? A government EPA official who destroys the world? No, im sure you saw trash and wanted to help the environment well now you are just plain destroying it. Please shut the whole operation down. Thank you! Peace love and light to you.
00093		Individual	Subject: Exemption on Aquifer Requirements for Uranium Mining Lisa, Without doing a thorough assessment of the draft permits, just the concept of any exemption on aquifer requirements for Uranium mining seems crazy! As far as the details of the regulations I hope they are based on solid science and the need to protect our environment (and especially drinking water) from long term hazardous contamination, but not knee jerk "anti-nuke" sentiments. In the past I've trusted the EPA to make sure judgements, hopefully this is still the case. Respectfully,
00100		Individual	We can live without uranium but not without clean water and soil. How will our children and grandchildren survive without clean water. I believe that the EPA's existence is to protect our environment for future generations. Science has proven that mankind has abused our resources and has given us a path forward to ensure we all have clean water and air. Please stand up for us. We already have been let down by the EPA allowing the pipeline to proceed. Regards,
00112		Individual	Subject: Draft permits and aquifer exemption for uranium mining project in southwestern South Dakota I think the job of EPA is to protect aquifers, not provide exemptions to companies that want to extract hazardous substances near water supplies. This is a continuation down the path of environmental degradation and a lack of concern for local drinking water. Please don't issue the permits.
00117		Individual	Dear Shea Valois:

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			As this issue has been extended for quite a while now, I will not start from scratch is detailing how unacceptable is the EPA consideration to allow injection of toxic waste into usable aquifers here in south west South Dakota. I will simply bring to your attention the fact that the EPA stands for Environmental Protection Agency not "Environmental Destruction Agency".
00123	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	It is your responsibility to make sure the water remains safe and by even considering a permit to allow this is a violation of your responsibility.
00125		Individual	<p>Please remember that the EPA 's reason for existence is to protect the environment not serve the interests of a corporation whose purpose is to violate uour protection. These are major reasons to deny these permits.</p> <p>It is my understanding that monies for the NRC budget and the EPA budget are derived from the very operations that they are supposed to oversee which supports the idea that the EPA and NRC actually work for the mining companies and not the public.</p>
00130		Individual	<p>Subject: Uranium injection activities</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to you as a believer in the epas mission BEFORE your new boss ever stepped in the building. And that is to provide quality control on the environment and to protect us, the citizens of this country from corporations and their profits over my health and neighbors well being.</p> <p>It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand the implications of what is being sought after. Your job is to preserve the land for generations to come. Including the natural inhabitants of a given area. Human, or wildlife. We are all inhabitants of this earth and we are demanding that obvious dangers are unavoidable and cannot be maintained by humans should something go awry. And save the retort about the safe guards in place. We have seen time and time again that these "safeguards" are faulty by design or corners are cut to save time and money.</p>
00153		Individual	<p>Subject: Uranium mining</p> <p>NO NO NO, it is not OK to mine uranium. Do your job EPA and start protecting people and the environment. Itis treason to put corporation profits ahead of the job you are supposed to be doing.</p>
00162		Individual	<p>Please remember that it is the EPAs responsibility to protect our environment, not to issue exemptions (no matter what the political climate is). You are the last hope for area residents to keep as much viable drinking water as possible for themselves and their livestock, and more importantly, for future generations. Please don't risk contamination for the benefit of a foreign company with no proven record and no benefit to the citizens of the US.</p> <p>Please deny the permits and exemptions and PROTECT OUR ENVIRONMENT!</p>
00171		Individual	<p>Do your job, please (directed at the agency, not you specifically) You are the EPA for Pete's sake!</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>

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00174	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	Subject: Opposition to Dewey Burdock Uranium Aquifer Mining The EPA's duty is to improve, not endanger, drinking water access (especially on tribal lands).
00176		Individual	Subject: Underground Injection Control (UIC) Area Permits to Powertech Concerning the potential proposal of permits for uranium injection control into an aquifer, the US and the EPA should be PREVENTING this level of environmental damage to not only our drinking water, but the entire ecosystem. I would like to vehemently voice my opposition to this proposed draft permit. INj, but the water and other natural resources this area provides. It's irresponsible to knowingly allow this level of damage to occur, but it also goes against the very name of the EPA. How can you 'protect' an environment when you're proposing a permit that allows for disposing of waste fluids in the process of uranium mining It's astonishing to me that this permit has even pushed to draft stage. As an agency that is supposed to work for the people, for the environment and for the protection of natural resources, this flies in the face of all three. I strongly urge the outright rejection of this proposed draft, as it could threaten human life and wildlife for potentially many decades to come. It's astonishing to me that the EPA has failed the American public this quickly.
00199		Individual	Subject: Mining waste It's hard for me to believe that the EPA would for one moment consider it acceptable to allow uranium mining waste to be dumped in any aquifer. If the EPA is not our champion and our protection against pollution of our drinking water, the air we breathe, and the God given beauty of our natural environment, then what on earth is its function!?! Please do your job and do NOT allow the dumping of mining waste into the South Dakota aquifer, or any other act of pollution!
00201		Individual	Your agency is the United States Environmental Protection Agency. You are to protect the American citizen from this kind of pollution. Plus we are dealing with a foreign holding company and they will not think protection our water is that important.
00213		Individual	Subject: Storage of uranium in aquifer Are you seriously considering this? I cannot believe the agency designed to protect the environment is actually asking civilians this question and not going to science...oh wait I forgot under Trump you can forget reality and be completely stupid!!! [...] Mr. Shea, Thanks for the reply I appreciate it. I after reading the entirety of the documents, I am just going to restate my comment under a Trump administration reality has gone on holiday. There is

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			nothing but bad (you, know, long after the fact bad) to come from this, and it is the duty of the EPA to ensure the environment comes before corporate gains!
00225	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	Subject: Mining waste dump Of course citizens are against allowing toxic waste dumping into our waterways. How can the government even ask? This is the primary reason for EPA. Stop irresponsible actions against our natural places and resources. This effects all people in the US.
00230		Individual	Subject: Comments on Dewey Burdock proposal [...] The EPA was formed with the charge with the mission of protecting the environment and human life and wellness. I don't believe that the EPA's mission should be to experiment with how much environmental destruction can we accomplish before we all die
00248		Individual	Subject: Draft Underground Injection Control (UIC) Area Permits to Powertech (USA) Inc., for injection activities related to a proposed uranium recovery project in the southern Black Hills region in Custer and Fall River Counties of South Dakota. Dear Valois Shea, Please do not allow uranium mining waste disposal in aquifers or streams. It is the EPA's job to protect people and ecosystems, not pander to mining and energy interests.
00254		Individual	To: McClain-Vanderpool, Lisa Subject: Black Hills Aquifer So let me get this straight...the EPA, an agency specifically designed to protect the environment, is going to use an aquifer to dispose of "treated" radioactive waste Seriously? No excuse. NONE I don't live in that area, but I am a human being, with a conscience. Do your jobs Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
00274		Individual	Subject: Epa seeking comment on uranium mining in S. Dakota How can you even consider destroying an aquifer with uranium mining waste? It is inconceivable and appears to be in direct contradiction to the EPA mission to protect our water. Please, stop this kind of disgraceful catering to mining interests and protect our waters! Sent from my iPhone
00332		Individual	I am disgusted that our federal agency that is tasked with protecting our natural environment would consider a course of action that endangers our most precious resource, potable water. It is irresponsible to poison, or threatn any aquifer.

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00350	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	It's plain insane. The EPA is supposed to protect us, not side with big billionaires. "EPA asks public for permission to allow Uranium mining waste disposal in SD aquifer." Thank you!
00358		Individual	I hope the EPA will do its job to protect the environment, even in this political climate. The EPA should not be influenced by politics and industry, but should maintain its focus on protecting our environment. It has done so many good things since its creation. Please protect our water and environment. Thank you,
00406		Individual	Subject: EPA Dear Valois Shea- I am very concerned about Pruitt denying climate science. The science is clear and we rely on the EPA for protecting our water, air, and land. We cannot rely on each state to clean up after themselves and not affect other states. We need federal regulation.
00410		Individual	VII: Conclusion: I am more than aware that because of the antiquated 1872 mining law, almost entity including foreign countries can submit mining claims, lease mining rights, and apply for projects such as the Powertech/Azarga Dewey Burdock Project. The EPA is compelled by law to examine these proposals and render a decision. The mining industry also pays permit application fees which enhance the revenue streams of the EPA and the NRC. But I would remind you that the EPA has a fiduciary responsibility to protect the public and the water resources which are so vital to the ongoing health of our country. I urge you to set aside the political and financial ramifications of this permit and move as a proper fiduciary would to protect the environment. Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments.
00417		Individual	It is the job of the government to protect and serve the people of this country. Dumping uranium waste into aquifers is counter to all that entails.
00420		Individual	Subject: re: draft permits and aquifer exemption for uranium mining project in South Dakota To Whom it May Concern: The EPA has been held in high regard in generations past, and the American people trusted that our taxpayer funded EPA would protect our air, water and soil. Clearly, the EPA has made poor decisions due to the political climate of late. But it is time to take our country back AND WE NEED YOU TO PROTECT US! We are at a critical juncture environmentally, and hopefully we can trust you to make the hard decision to protect us from any and all uranium mining projects. You know the science--you

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			know the truth. Please make the hard decision and do the right thing. Please protect the American Citizens from this terrifying move toward environmental destruction.
00431	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	<p>Subject: Uranium mining project - South Dakota</p> <p>I'm writing in regards to the aquifer exemption for Powertech Inc and their uranium disposal.</p> <p>I really don't see a single reason to grant them this exemption. This will not only endanger those that rely on the water supply surrounding these well fields, but is a threat to the surrounding environment. It sets a dangerous precedent, as long as a company pays off someone high up in the EPA or current administration, they can break what ever laws and regulations they want. Be better than this EPA. Stand up for something.</p>
00447		Individual	<p>A BONFIRE OF LIES</p> <p>Thank you. I am Carol Hayse and I live near Nemo, SD. My theme today will be lies, cowardice, laziness, hypocrisy, cynicism, Native rights, and Azarga's and the EPA's role in environmental destruction or protection. First let us say that there are good people in the EPA who want to do good things, and have done a few good things. Perhaps some are in this room. BUT my message to you, the EPA, today is-don't be lazy. Don't be a coward. Stand up against Trump's war on the environment. Be like the employees of the Badlands Park Service who posted the TRUTH about climate change on the website. When you rule on this draft permit, speak truth to power.</p>
00448		Individual	<p>Let's face it, the applicant is in it to make money and does not care about the consequences to the public. It is your job to protect the public's access to clean water per the Safe Drinking Water Act. No exemptions should be made nor any permit be issued to mine Uranium nor dump toxic chemicals into our critical aquifers that are necessary to sustain life. Please use your conscious and legal obligations to the American public and deny these permits.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>
00450		Individual	<p>Reading all the above makes one wonder if the EPA Federal Agency is really and truly effective, and considers the effects on all of mankind and humanity. I am one of millions of the average citizenry of our great country, and do not have a whole lot of initials after my name, but am of the opinion I don't need those to make an intelligent response to the article "regarding the fight uranium mining in Black Hills." Common sense is all that is needed to know how dangerous and hazardous such projects in the Black Hills pose to humanity. I am of the opinion mankind and humanity no longer matter to the EPA, NRC, or any other federal agency of the government.</p>
00470		Individual	<p>EPA-Environmental Protection Agency</p> <p>Please do your job and protect the environment - that means no polluting. This project pollutes! Say No!</p>
00470		Individual	<p>The EPA is supposed to <u>protect</u> the environment and wild life.</p>

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00472	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	A relaxed standard for contaminated water is not proper stewardship of our natural resources and turns the EPA into an oxymoron We all know that water is the basis of life. Do the right thing and deny this project, as the risks are not worth it.
00487		Individual	<p>Why are we even considering doing such an unneeded project? HELP STOP THIS!!</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>It looks to me that EPA is in for a fight. Get the environmentalists on your side to put pressure on Congress. Don't leave us.</p> <p>Week ahead: EPA braces for Trump budget</p> <p>The Trump White House is due to release its 2018 budget proposal on Tuesday, a document expected to contain deep cuts for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other programs.</p> <p>The EPA saw one of the largest cuts in the White House's "skinny budget" in March, a precursor to the formal proposal that Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney says is coming out on Tuesday.</p> <p>While the White House could have changed its budget targets between then and now, the March proposal hints at the type of cuts the EPA and other agencies should expect to see on Tuesday.</p> <p>Under the March proposal, the EPA was due to absorb a 31 percent funding cut. If enacted, that plan would discontinue funding for programming, research and diplomatic efforts related to climate change, end more than 50 EPA programs and cut 3,200 of the agency's 15,000 jobs.</p> <p>Trump's budget proposal is just that: a proposal. Congress will have a say over federal spending, and while deep EPA spending cuts have divided some Republicans, the party has looked to cut the EPA's budget for year</p>
00488		Individual	<p>Hello ... my name is Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) and I live in Rapid City. Thank you for these hearings. I am not a scientist, but I am a mom and a grandmother. I read quite a bit, except for twitters, and it concerns me that our current President - and - Head of the EPA, both seem more interested in supporting fossil fuel companies, rather than getting serious about climate change and protection of the environment. It makes it even harder for people within the agency to do the right thing. We can no longer write a carte blanche approval to greedy, poison polluters who have done the paper work right. We know better. What is your role now?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Thank you again for listening. The United States does not need this and the only way we can keep our water safer, is simply to NOT ALLOW the permits.</p> <p>What is the role of the EPA -</p>

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00537	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Native Research Solutions	Every other UIC mine in the country is governed by an individual state regulatory scheme. This is the first time EPA is directly permitting and regulating a UIC mine. EPA has neither the specific regulations nor the expertise to permit the UIC mine. In this instance, the EPA should tread especially carefully and create a thorough process in order to best protect the environment and communities EPA serves.
07444		Individual	Subject: Storage of uranium in aquifer Are you seriously considering this? I cannot believe the agency designed to protect the environment is actually asking civilians this question and not going to science...oh wait I forgot under Trump you can forget reality and be completely stupid!!!
07459 (Valentine hearing)		Individual	So as a body of Environmental Protection, I think you're beholden to not allow things like this to happen. But then I don't know how much power the EPA has these days since the new government. So I'm kind of wondering why we're all doing this and not just doing something else more, like, direct or something. But, yeah, mostly I just wanted to register that it's -- I -- it's -- it doesn't make any sense to me. I don't know if -- I'm currently a resident in South Dakota with the Sicangu. I have relatives there. And, yeah, so on many levels, not just a physical level and a cultural level, it, I think, is completely inappropriate, and I hope that you will stop it. Thanks.
07459 (Valentine hearing)		Individual	And the EPA, being a cheerleader for things like this, making it look nice and pretty is wrong. You're supposed to be there for the people, and I expect you all to be here and make decisions for us, the people that live downstream and around these areas. This -- I oppose this, and I hope you'll do the right thing.
07460 (5/8 Rapid City hearing)		Individual	You know, I don't like to get up here at these hearings and get angry, but you're messing with a gift of life. You're messing with the lives of children, generations not yet born, and those are the ones we have to consider. Seven generations hence. We listen to our Native American brothers. We should know that by now. But we seem to be damn slow learners. South Dakota has been considered probably the second or third most corrupt state in the nation. For two bits, they'd sell their mother or another buck. Years ago, before they ever come up with the Environmental Protection Agency, I remember when a river burned in Detroit -- AUDIENCE MEMBER: Cleveland. MARVIN KAMMERER: Yup, Cleveland. I remember another incident where Love Canal, they -- horrible things happened to people who lived there. And the government decided we needed to do something to protect the people. To protect the people, not to be speakeasies for the corporate powers. And that's what I think the Environmental Protection Agency is becoming, unfortunately.

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			But it takes backbone. It takes principle. It takes even threats. If you stand up to them, I'm sure all of you here representing the government have got a family, kids, maybe grandkids. I've got seven great-grandkids, and they are pretty damn precious to me. Five of our kids -- of our seven kids are still on ranches. We have to survive, and the most precious thing this year is water and grass.
07460 (5/8 Rapid City hearing)	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	<p>MARY JO FARRINGTON: Hello. My name is Mary Jo Farrington, and I live in Rapid City. I want to thank you for these hearings. I am not a scientist, but I am a mom and a grandmother, and I read quite a bit, except for Twitters, and it concerns me that our current President and head of the EPA both seem more interested in supporting fossil fuel companies rather than getting serious about climate change and protection of the environment.</p> <p>And I realize it makes it even harder for those of you who are working in the EPA to do the right thing when you have that kind of leadership. But we can no longer write a carte blanche approval to greedy, poison polluters who have done the paperwork right.</p> <p>We know better now. We know that mining has been both a plus and a very bad thing for our environment. And as I've sat today and listened to all the different people, most of us are talking from our heart about the morality of this, about, you know, the craziness of hurting our environment, and it makes me wonder what your role is in the EPA.</p> <p>When I heard you do the PowerPoint up there, I really kind of thought you were representing Azarga. You know, you were explaining this all.</p> <p>I have been told that your Agency has not denied any permit of one of these permits, even though we all know better about their toxic harm and ruin to our environment.</p>
07460 (5/8 Rapid City hearing)		Individual	<p>We ask you, the EPA, whose work I value -- I don't value who your leader is or who's the head of you. I think that's a very big conflict for all of us, and I think it is for you, too. But we ask you to help us achieve that moratorium of uranium mining in our state by refusing to grant these water permits.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today.</p>
07460 (5/8 Rapid City hearing)		Individual	<p>You say you're charged with environmental protection. Show us.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>You're supposed to be a protection agency. Thank you.</p>
07460 (5/8 Rapid City hearing)		Individual	<p>CAROL HAYSE: I'm Carol Hayse, and I live near Nemo, South Dakota. My theme today will be lies, cowardice, laziness, hypocrisy, cynicism, Native rights, and Azarga's and the EPA's role in environmental destruction or protection.</p> <p>First, let us say that there are good people in the EPA who want to do good things and have done a few good things. Perhaps some are in this room.</p> <p>But my message to you, the EPA, today is, Don't be lazy, don't be a coward, stand up to Trump's war on the environment. Be like the employees at the Badlands Park Service who posted the</p>

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			<p>truth about climate change on the website. When you rule on this draft permit, speak truth to power.</p> <p>Today, those of you from the EPA will be hearing or reading some good science, and some bad science. The good science will be from community members opposed to pollution of our precious Black Hills aquifers. The bad science -- call it alternative science -- will be from Powertech.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Now let's talk about the opposite of cowardice, courage. Let's talk about what real environmental protection looks like. I think it looks like the Native folks who stood tall at Standing Rock, defending the earth and the water against scum like the Dakota Access Pipeline and those who stood against the KXL Pipeline as well.</p> <p>We here in this room need to follow the leadership of those proud Native folks and their allies to defeat Dewey-Burdock. We community members here in this room are all allies against environmental destruction.</p> <p>We invite you, the employees of the EPA, to stand for Mother Earth, to stand for clean water, to stand for the principles that probably caused you to seek employment there in the first place. Stand against these mining permits.</p>
07460 (5/8 Rapid City hearing)	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	And you, the EPA, whose mission it is to protect human health and the environment, seem to be on the other side, on the -- the side of a foreign industrial company who's likely to contaminate our groundwater.
07461 (5/9 Rapid City hearing)		Individual	<p>BRANDON SAZUE, SR.: Good afternoon. My name is Brandon Sazue. I'm Chairman of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe.</p> <p>The United States of America is absolutely, unequivocally nuts, plumb crazy. I sat here, and I watched this lady over here give this whole thing on this is what we're going to do to the earth, this is what they plan on doing to the earth, injecting this in here, and injecting that in there, and coming out of here and, oh, radon and all this stuff. That's nuts. That's absolutely crazy.</p> <p>With the way the United States is going right now, you've got oil pipelines, you've got corporations beating the normal people down. You've got people changing regulations that are in high power. You've got all that just for money. Can you eat or drink money? No, we can't. No, we can't.</p> <p>You know, we're here for the future of our children, we're here for the future of this planet, we're here for the future of this earth and everybody in it. You as EPA, you're going down. You're going to go down because of this administration.</p> <p>But why not go down fighting? Go down fighting with us. Do what you believe in. And you know as well as we do that this is wrong, that this isn't right. Because after you, there's war. This is real. This is the truth. It's coming. It will come.</p>

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			<p>So what I want to say to you is, go down fighting. Fight for what you believe in. Stop this madness. Stop this craziness. Why is it that we're here? Why is it that we're speaking to you? Why is it that some of us traveled long ways to talk to you? Why are we even here today?</p> <p>This is madness. This world is full of madness. Here we are, going to let a company halfway across the world or across the world drill right here in South Dakota and put -- put uranium in there, mess with drinking water. This is supposed to be the United States of your America, our America, not theirs.</p> <p>I'm going to stand for what I believe in, and I hope you stand for what you believe in. So each one of us in this room is only worth five minutes of your time. Each human being in this room who gets up here and talks is only five minutes of your time. Think about that.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>You know, before I would write stuff down. Now I'm just speaking from my heart. Because this means the end, this means the apocalypse. I'm sure you've read the Bible. I'm sure you've read all that stuff. You're just helping it come true. Our government is helping that come true.</p> <p>War with North Korea, the Russians hacking the United States, but yet we're allowing foreign countries to come in here and inject your lands, inject our lands with poison.</p> <p>But we say we're going to regulate it. We're going to do this, and we're going to keep it confined, and it's not going to get out. Haven't you been reading the news lately? All those oil spills, all those leaks, those are real. Those are real. So that's what I want to talk to you about and hopefully get it -- get it through to your hearts, into your minds.</p> <p>When you go to bed and sleep at night, can you honestly say -- go to bed and go to sleep at night knowing that this is what companies are doing? I can honestly go to bed and sleep at night and say, Well, I stood up for our children, I stood up for what I believe in. I could sleep good at night, but I'll have nightmares because of this.</p> <p>I want you to go to bed and think tonight before you go to bed. Go down fighting. Don't give up. Stand with us. Let's not stand against each other.</p>
07461 (5/9 Rapid City hearing)	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	<p>So what I propose to the EPA, who I understand is an organization that is in a tough spot because you've chosen to protect the environment, but yet you're still withheld by these laws of the federal government that you are a part of.</p> <p>So as double agents, I urge you to please take into account your own future. Because these water jugs in the back here that we're all drinking out of are clean right now. But soon they won't be.</p>
07461 (5/9 Rapid City hearing)		Individual	<p>All these people are going to suffer, all their children. Look. Look at all these people. They have kids, like you. All of them, families. They are one big family because they had to stick together and unite against -- where were you for the pipeline? Your own president doesn't honor you. He signed an executive order saying you have no power. So who do you represent? Who represents you?</p>

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07461 (5/9 Rapid City hearing)	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	I encourage the Environmental Protection Agency to go back to their core purpose, and rather than mitigating and minimizing damage from things like uranium mining, to indeed protect our environment.
07461 (5/9 Rapid City hearing)		Individual	The EPA has proven itself to have devolved into nothing more than an \$8 billion agency dedicated to supporting and promoting exemptions for the very industries that continue to cause massive environmental contamination, the legacy of which is left to the local residents for generations.
07461 (5/9 Rapid City hearing)		Individual	I'm thinking about the history of the EPA. Why was the EPA created? The EPA is charged with protecting the environment and protecting people. I don't believe that the EPA's mission should be to experiment with how much environmental destruction can we accomplish before we all die.
07461 (5/9 Rapid City hearing)		Individual	<p>LILIAS JARDING: Greetings. My name is Dr. Liliias Jarding. I live in Rapid City. My Ph.D. is in political science with an emphasis on environmental policy.</p> <p>I started studying uranium mining in 1979, when about two dozen large corporations that wanted to mine uranium here were convinced to leave empty-handed. In recent years, 11 uranium companies have expressed an interest in the Black Hills.</p> <p>My dissertation considered tribal, federal, state, government relationships around natural resources. Part of that research was conducted under an EPA fellowship. I have published on these topics in peer-reviewed journals and presented the results of my research at a number of professional conferences.</p> <p>I focus on policy and the roles of the government agencies on the uranium issue. I am on my third day of observing your hearings on the Dewey-Burdock proposal, and I have read large chunks of the related documents.</p> <p>My preliminary conclusion is that some of the EPA has been captured by the uranium industry. For those in the audience who don't know this term, when I say "captured," I mean that the Agency has come to relate too closely to the companies it regulates to the detriment of the general public. This is a difficult thing to say, and you deserve to hear my reasons for this conclusion.</p> <p>The first reason I say this is the use of language by representatives of the Agency at these hearings. Instead of saying that parts of the Inyan Kara aquifers are under consideration for exemption, your staff said, and I quote, "the areas that we are exempting," unquote, as if the exemption has already been granted or at least as if the decision has already been made.</p> <p>In the PowerPoint that I have now observed several times, the slide on the roles of the various agencies makes it sound as if the permitting process is all but complete. In fact, the NRC license is under litigation. The state DENR has only held one week of hearings on the proposed large-scale mining permit, and that happened several years ago. In fact, the process has been on hold since then.</p>

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			<p>[...]</p> <p>I know that the Agency is likely to get sued whether it issues final permits or not. But this one-sided consideration of the situation simply increases the probability of extended litigation, at taxpayers' expense.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>I would strongly suggest that the EPA refocus its efforts with full consideration of the easily available information on the problems associated with ISL uranium mining and the deep disposal wells.</p> <p>As I think has been abundantly clear during these hearings, only then can the Agency really do its job to the benefit of the public rather than a foreign corporation. You are supposed to be accountable to us.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment.</p> <p>I plan to submit further comments by May 19th.</p>
07461 (5/9 Rapid City hearing)	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	<p>When is it really about the environment? Isn't that what EPA stands for, the Environmental Protection Agency? Who's protecting the earth on your side? Because I don't want them -- I'm just standing for them. We are all water-protectors. We are all earth-defenders. See, because without her, we have nothing. What happens when we use everything she has?</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>And I'm not putting -- placing a specific blame on you, but you're the representatives of the entity we stand against. And it's really sad that the people are standing -- have to stand against the EPA for the same thing that you guys should be standing with us for. You know, I'm going to pray for you.</p>
07461 (5/9 Rapid City hearing)		Individual	<p>And you gave up your environmental impact statement up at Standing Rock, just let them roll over you. You know, you don't do your job and protect and clean up.</p> <p>You might give a little, teeny fine to a company, but that's about it. And they continue doing what they want to do, and they leave behind their mess. And all of us in this room and everyone we care about, and our family and our tribe are all collateral damage for a corporation to make a buck.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Now it's in your water. What do you do? You going to give Powertech a fine? And it's still in the water. And nothing is going to happen. Do you know how many Superfund sites you guys have that you know are sites but no cleanup is happening?</p>
07461 (5/9 Rapid City hearing)		Individual	<p>LYDIA BEAR KILLER: Good afternoon. My name is Lydia Bear Killer, and I currently serve on the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council. I come here today and recognize this as just a listening session, and because there is violations of federal laws that you people are supposed to protect and pursue, and it's your responsibility to take care of those federal laws.</p>

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07461 (5/9 Rapid City hearing)	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	And on top of that, the Environmental Protection Agency is supposed to protect, as we've heard. What about the 10,000-plus uranium mines that are already out there? Many of them, there's no sign. There's no anything. They're wide open. They're leaking and leaching toxins now. So if you truly want to do your job, begin cleaning up the mess that's already there.
07462 (Hot Springs hearing)		Individual	The EPA has proven itself to have devolved into nothing more than an \$8 billion agency dedicated to supporting and promoting exemptions for the very industries that continue to cause massive environmental contamination, the legacy of which is left to the local residents for generations.
07462 (Hot Springs hearing)		Individual	<p>Make a stand. Do something with what you're supposed to, you know. It's your job to protect these lands and protect all this. Like, otherwise we have to. That's when we have to come out here and do that. We have to come make a stand.</p> <p>And you know, if the government agencies that were overseeing this stuff did what they were supposed to do, we wouldn't have to do that at all. It's completely ridiculous.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>But at least do your jobs correctly. At least, you know, see things the way they should be seen instead of overlooking these things, just putting them under the rug, whatever, you know. It's just -- it's not my family, it's not my people.</p>
07463 (Edgemont hearing)		Individual	The EPA has proven itself to have devolved into nothing more than a taxpayer \$8 billion dollar agency dedicated to supporting and promoting exemptions for the very industries that continue to cause massive environmental contamination, the legacy of which is left to the local residents for generations.
07463 (Edgemont hearing)		Individual	<p>You don't live here. You're only paid to come here and tell us what you can do. You are the Environmental Protection Agency. Do your job.</p> <p>That's what you are set up to do is protect all of us from the corporations coming in here, raping us.</p>
07463 (Edgemont hearing)		Individual	<p>And for you to be the agency that is going to either grant or deny this permit, you're either granting or denying racism in your country yet again, and inflicting genocide on our people yet again.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>Don't be that part of history where you're going to be the ones to blame. When we're all contaminated, when we're all dying of cancer at skyrocket rates. Don't be that. Be somebody that we can actually trust. You're the Environmental Protection Agency. Live up to your damn name, please.</p>

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07463 (Edgemont hearing)	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	And this is the reality. We can't come here, you know. You're supposed to protect the environment, you know. You have this in-situ leach mining program, and it destroys our aquifers.
07463 (Edgemont hearing)		Individual	And the EPA is supposed to protect the environment. And I don't think it's right that I have to stand up against the EPA granting permits. I feel that you guys should stand with the people. I feel that you should protect the environment and the future that comes with this.
07642 (Hot Springs hearing)		Individual	<p>With the demand for water ever increasing due to continued world population increases, it's imperative that the protection and careful usage of our water supplies be our guiding light. To actually embrace the opposite behavior is to violate the EPA stated purpose -- where am I?</p> <p>It is no longer possible to deny the threats to our remaining water supplies driven by in-situ mining and ruination. It is the EPA's responsibility to make sure the water and environment remain safe.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>How am I to explain to my granddaughter that her government decided that it was safe and reasonable to exchange her healthy drinking water for a few pieces of silver in the pockets of a few profiteers? Thank you.</p>
07642 (Hot Springs hearing)		Individual	Our relaxed standard for contaminated water is not proper stewardship of our natural resources and turns the EPA into an oxymoron.
8050 (10/5 Hot Springs hearing)		Individual	<p>I want to start out with this quote: "Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things connect." Chief Seattle, Duwamish.</p> <p>I'm sure there's no one that can speak that language anymore because they were -- tried to annihilate all of them, tried to make them white people, tried all those kind of things.</p> <p>But I'm here to talk about our water because it is all about the water. That's why we are protesting so far.</p> <p>How dare you come in here and say you're going to pollute the two aquifers that is above the Madison? There are people still depending on those aquifers no matter what kind of science you try to put out there.</p> <p>And you guys were formed to protect us from -- from corporations. Now they are running the country, and they are going to -- you know what, you -- I know what you think of us. We're just collateral damage, you know, for the best of the good. And that means only rich people, very rich people.</p> <p>And you want to kill us off like you did the Indians. But the Indians didn't go away. We're not going to go away. We're going to fight you to death for our water. Just leave it alone.</p>

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			<p>I copied every comment that was made in your last public things. And I counted up, and there was only about 3 percent that was for giving these permits out. 97 of them all wanted to leave our water alone. And yet you took it upon yourselves to issue two permits for Powertech in -- in, when did you, August? Not even notifying us. How can you believe that the people living in the Black Hills -- and like everybody else mentioned, the water here goes in the Cheyenne. The Cheyenne goes in the Missouri, the Missouri goes in the Mississippi, and then it goes down to the coast.</p> <p>This affects everybody in this country. And you cannot sit there and claim that we are just collateral damage because we happen to live here.</p> <p>I know your maps and stuff that you dig up from a long time ago show that nobody is living here. That's what you think. But there's a lot of people living here. We had very little time to gather all our documents, but I have them on print. So if you -- if you deleted them from your computer, I'll give them to you.</p>
8050 (10/5 Hot Springs hearing)	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	<p>The history of the EPA is to protect the environment and the people, to uphold the law and not to allow big business to run roughshod over it. Know we are depending on you to protect us from our -- from big money destroying our lives -- livelihood over -- from nuclear destruction. Don't give the permits to them outside -- to the outside interests. Thank you.</p>
8050 (10/5 Hot Springs hearing)		Individual	<p>Good morning.</p> <p>My name is Deborah Mars, and I'm here from Oglala. I have been hearing about the Black Hills most of my life. I grew up in Washington, D.C. And sitting next to me here is Nikki Abourezk-Pipe On Head, who is my best lifelong friend.</p> <p>And when her father was a senator from South Dakota, I used to come and visit in South Dakota. And I always knew that one day I would like to live here because it was so pure, and the water was so clear. And I was always told how sacred and special the Black Hills were to the Lakota, that it is considered the heart of Mother Earth.</p> <p>I have moved to Oglala, and now I am heartbroken that the water is being polluted. I'm already hearing that we should not eat the fish and people shouldn't fish, that there's already tainted uranium.</p> <p>And many others have talked about the holes that have not been capped, the proof of the water already not being pure enough for well water, not being done properly. There are others that have said better than I all that was not proven.</p> <p>But let me just say, for me, an American citizen who is turning 65 next month, who was one of the biggest student organizers of the first Earth Day, that my heart is broken, that the EPA was the ones that were supposed to protect our sacred lands and our waters, especially our waters, which do not unpollute once they've been tainted with something like uranium.</p>

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			<p>And I've taken geology. I'm not a geologist, but I was originally a physical science major. And we have no proofs of what really goes on in the water shelves and the underground flow and what can flow into what.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>So I just wanted you to hear from someone who came here, that traveled thousands of miles to move here for the purity. And again, you were my heroes. That my heart is broken.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>I put that in that along with all the other people who have spoken more eloquently of the science of all of this and how this is really a toxic waste dump, in one of the most sacred places on Mother Earth.</p> <p>My name is Deborah Mars. Thank you for sharing this time.</p>
8050 (10/5 Hot Springs hearing)	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	<p>Hello. My name is Steve Jarding. For the last 16 years, I've been teaching government and leadership at Harvard University. And I don't want to try to address areas that I have no expertise, and that is really a lot of the environmental stuff. I think we've had those experts, and I think we've seen from that expertise the damage that these types of projects do.</p> <p>I would like to rather speak about my areas of expertise, leadership and government. And I will tell you -- and I address this to the leaders of the Environmental Protection Agency -- what you are doing is not leadership. You took an oath.</p> <p>I spent ten years in Washington working on Capitol Hill, and I took an oath. We all do. We were to uphold the Constitution. We were to serve the public to the best of their interests, not ours.</p> <p>What is happening with the EPA today is that the leaders of the Environmental Protection Agency -- and think of that name. Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>The fact that we have to have hearings to -- to decide whether we should dump pollutants into the ground, and we call ourselves a protection agency, and we took an oath -- your bosses took an oath. If they don't want to protect the environment, leave. That's your job.</p> <p>They are turning the Environmental Protection Agency into the Environmental Destruction Agency, and it's not that responsibility.</p> <p>Leadership is by definition effecting change in a positive way for multitudes of people for lengthy periods of time. That's the basic definition of leadership. And what the EPA is doing is the opposite of leadership.</p> <p>My God, it's a protection agency. And you're not going to get this back, by the way. We have lost 50 percent of all the animals on planet Earth in the last 40 years. 46 percent of all the birds on planet Earth. We have lost 33 percent of amphibians on planet Earth.</p> <p>This planet is dying. And America is supposed to lead. We have a legacy of leadership. Not at the EPA today. There are legacies that will outlive your leaders. And when they dump and contaminate and turn this area into a wasteland and, worse, take this land that is not ours from the next generations, they defy the very meaning of leadership.</p>

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			<p>It's not that difficult. What is government for if not to protect? Government isn't here to sell out. In 2001, there was 16,000 lobbyists. Today it's -- 16,000 lobbyists in Washington. Today there's almost 50,000. In 2001, the lobbyists spent \$25 million to lobby Congress. It just went over \$600 million a month. These guys are sold out.</p> <p>Guys, it's not your -- it's not your duty to -- if you want to sell out, go do something else. But do not claim to serve the people of the United States, because that is not service, and your legacy will outlive you.</p> <p>We get one shot, and this planet is dying. And the one nation that the world has looked to to lead by example is this one. And your leaders in this most critical agency at this most critical time have turned it into a joke.</p> <p>Shame on them. I would call on them to do the right thing, to think about the oath they took. Because -- because if you don't, then that too is a shame, and you should not be someone who claims to work for the people of the United States.</p> <p>When 43 percent of corporations in America last year paid nothing taxes, and we turn around and give them permits to destroy the land, what's the matter with us? That's not leading.</p> <p>Your bosses need to know that they get one shot at a legacy, and right now their legacy is destroying the planet at the most critical time in this planet's existence, in the most critical country in the world.</p> <p>They will either do the right thing or the world will suffer, the planet will suffer, and their legacy will be a joke. Thank you.</p>
8050 (10/5 Hot Springs hearing)	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	And now I'm here today to talk to a federal agency and say -- remind you that it's your job to protect the water. It's your job to protect these people and this land. And I hope you will, and I hope you will deny these permits. Thank you.
8050 (10/5 Hot Springs hearing)		Individual	<p>Good morning. My name is Eileen Ohliger, O-H-L-I-G-E-R. And I'm a resident of Hot Springs. I'm originally from New Jersey, so I'm very familiar with issues of pollution and the effects after Superfund sites have been established, and I'm totally against all of this and anything having to do with the uranium mining.</p> <p>The EPA was established as a protection agency to control pollution and to foresee problems dealing with all levels of environmental decay;</p> <p>To consider all possible negative impacts on human health, taking into consideration all scientific and cultural perspectives, which are very important and must be taken into consideration;</p> <p>To lower costs of cleanup actions, making sure that companies in question have appropriate funding to restore any damage done, not leaving the responsibility on the people after a disaster;</p> <p>Also to not pass on the grim consequences of the unprevented disasters to our children and their children to the younger generation.</p>

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			<p>These are all issues and points that were brought up in the beginning in the 1970s for the EPA. And today I feel that, as a citizen, as a concerned person, as someone who feels that the water is sacred, that we must protect the water and that these -- just these three points brought up still need to be addressed and are not being addressed.</p> <p>As a citizen and a person, I don't feel -- I'm not comfortable with all of this. And I truly believe that eventually that we don't want to leave a disaster for our children and for future generations. And I don't support anything presently that's going on. Thank you.</p>
8050 (10/5 Hot Springs hearing)	<div>Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)</div>	Individual	<p>Hello. I don't really know how to follow that. Long story short, before I came up here, I guess I asked myself, like who am I actually talking to?</p> <p>Because over 95 percent of the people I've heard today have overwhelmingly, like, told stories about why there should not be water permits, why there shouldn't be draft permits anyway, why people don't want mining in the Black Hills. It's very obvious that everybody here doesn't want it.</p> <p>So it's basically -- I mean, it's good. It's preaching to the choir. And then I have the -- I had a moment where I actually talked to Judge Katherin Hall in the bathroom. And I'm like, What's actually going on here? I'm like, Do you have the power to say no to these permits? I'm like, Who is doing this?</p> <p>And she said, No, it's not me. It's Douglas. And I'm like, Oh, where's Douglas? He's not even here anymore. I guess Douglas sits on this committee where he actually decides who is going to be answering these -- the comments, responding to these comments.</p> <p>So I was like, Well, I find that really interesting. And I'm like, okay. I'm like, So when they respond to these comments, they are actually making decisions? Yes, they are actually making decisions.</p> <p>I'm like, Okay. I'm like, So what happens when this mining company just decides not to care and just keep doing what they always do?</p> <p>And no disrespect, but they are like, I don't know. And I'm like, You should know. And I'm -- I'm getting all emotional.</p> <p>But he's actually sitting right here. I looked you up. So on the internet it says your name is Ronald Burrows. I will point you out. You came here. So he's sitting in the audience today, someone that works for Powertech.</p> <p>And you're trying to come here and make it okay to mine the Black Hills and pump toxic water back in the Black Hills. You should raise your hand. You're right here. You're going to speak, right?</p> <p>UNIDENTIFIED AUDIENCE MEMBER: Ron Burrows works for the NRC.</p> <p>CHERYL ANGEL: Okay. So what's your name?</p> <p>Okay. Well, there he is. So basically, that's who we're talking to.</p>

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			<p>Because Valois, if you have the power to say no to these permits, you should. Like, nothing I say, like, no emotional appeal I make -- I don't know, maybe that will change your mind.</p> <p>But basically, you know the science. You all know what's going on. You know people don't want it, and you keep hearing people say the same thing.</p> <p>So you can either decide to not issue these permits -- because also, someone said this before me. I was, like, Oh, you took my thing. But I was glad, Oh, you took my thing.</p> <p>On your website, epa.gov, it says you work to ensure that Americans, whatever that means -- Americans have clean air, land, and water. National efforts to reduce environmental risks are based on the best available scientific information.</p> <p>You already have that. You've heard from many people with, like, lots of different accolades and degrees. And that shouldn't even matter. Their voice should not matter more than other people's.</p> <p>And also, you work to ensure that federal laws protect human health and the environment and are administered and enforced fairly, effectively, and as Congress intended.</p> <p>Well, if that's true, and it doesn't matter what I say and you're only doing what other people in your group or what the feds tell you to do, then basically the NRC, their cultural resources review was not deemed sufficient by a federal court. It's been, like, illegal. It's, hey, this is illegal. It's documented, this is not sufficient.</p> <p>So if you're not going to listen to me, you're not going to listen to Cheryl Angel, you're not going to the -- how many other people that are here today that have so many different reasons, so many different records to back that up, you need to follow your own laws. Like, I -- the most disturbing thing I've heard all day is, like, was when Regina Brave came up here and she put -- basically put you in your place in a good way. I thought, Drop the mic. We're done.</p> <p>She was like, This isn't even your jurisdiction. I thought you all -- maybe people will just walk out. But no. This isn't even your jurisdiction. It's a treaty issue.</p> <p>All these things are happening. And while we're waiting for these things to play out in court -- because like I said, I was looking at you. You're very distracting to watch during this whole thing. Like, I was looking at your eyes, like, while she's speaking.</p> <p>I'm like, Whoa. She's saying some really intense -- dropping some truth. I didn't see anything coming over there. So if you're not going to listen to me, you're not going to listen to Regina Brave, you're not going to listen to these people that say that their children are dying, you have to follow your own laws.</p> <p>We shouldn't have to come up here and tell you what they are or read off the list of, oh, these are the federal violations that are going on. It's very obvious. You already know these things. I don't need to tell you these things.</p> <p>And I don't need to come up here and make an ass of myself. And I don't need to approach you in the bathroom and ask you, How does this work?</p>

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			<p>So like, yes, it's -- we are grateful that you're here. But at the same token, like, you're not these, like, people that live here and the people that are, like, indigenous to these territories.</p> <p>They are not on trial, you're on trial. What are you even doing here? This isn't even your jurisdiction. This shouldn't even be happening. There shouldn't be draft permits. Like, they should never have been issued. You know that.</p> <p>You don't need me to come up here in my sweater and be like, Hey, you should not have done this. You know that.</p> <p>So thanks for your time, but don't -- just do the right thing. Like, if you're not going to listen to me, you don't care what I have to say, you don't care, like, Oh, yes. I could be, like, I have a degree in biology, botany, that shouldn't matter.</p> <p>If that doesn't matter, listen to your own laws. And you've heard people say, "If you don't respect us, expect us." And you've heard it multiple times today. So I don't know what you're expecting after these hearings, but it looks like you should be expecting us. Thank you.</p>
8050 (10/5 Hot Springs hearing)	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	<p>[...]</p> <p>And, you know, I remember when the EPA had some teeth. When Nixon started the EPA, it was a great thing. It cleaned up some cities. The Chicago River doesn't burn anymore.</p> <p>And now in the era of -- sorry to inject politics into this. But Trump, he's declawed the EPA. He's made it an instrument of corporate America. And we're -- you know, fortunately, we are not sitting around watching it. We're standing up. We're speaking.</p> <p>And I'm not yet retired, but I soon will be. And when it happens, I will join my friends here and give them my all to stopping this horrible, horrible idea. Thank you.</p> <p>[...]</p>
8050 (10/5 Hot Springs hearing)		Individual	<p>The EPA is an agency of the U.S. Federal Government whose mission is to protect human and environmental health. That's what it was formulated for. Nixon didn't do it because he was an environmentalist. He did it because there are environmentalists, people like us, people like you, who were raising concerns about the environment, and they did it to address those concerns. That's why the EPA is here, and that's what the duty is of the EPA. I was looking for things to be encouraged about the EPA. I read an article in the National Geographic, "Five Reasons to Like the U.S. EPA." Basically, the subtitle of that is, "It keeps a lot of dangerous stuff from being dumped in our air, water, and land." That's what it says the EPA does, five things to like.</p> <p>Legislation regarding air, water, pesticides hazardous materials, and the climate. They passed the Clean Air Act of 1970. It gave the EPA the authority to regulate harmful air pollutants. Americans were dying from heart disease linked to lead poisoning.</p> <p>In '74, the EPA began a phaseout of lead gasoline. It took until 1995 to completely remove it. The result has been a measurable 75 percent drop in blood lead levels in the public. It's the most costly division -- it's the most costly project that the EPA has, dealing with air pollution. It's considered the biggest burden the agency imposes on the economy.</p>

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			<p>But the Federal Office of Management and Budget, using data from 2004 to 2014, estimates that health costs and other benefits of the rule exceeded the cost by somewhere between 113 and 700 billion dollars a year. This is why we have Superfunds. It's a waste of money. It could have been dealt with to start with. South Dakota has four Superfund sites. We don't have one like we should have one in Edgemont to clean up uranium mining that's already been done there. But how ridiculous is it that we create Superfunds to clean up a mess where we should have known better in the first place.</p> <p>Water. They created the Clean Water Act of the 1972. The simple goal was to make every river, stream, and lake in the U.S. safe for swimming and fishing. I went on a float trip on the Missouri breakwaters in Montana. They warn you against filtering the water to drink it. You can't even filter the water in the Missouri because it's so toxic from glyphosate.</p> <p>Monsanto gets away with murder. And the original director of the EPA was also on the board for Monsanto later on. So that's how in bed everybody is. That's what we're dealing with here. That's why this is so frustrating.</p> <p>Pesticides. Thanks to Rachel Carson and her book, "Silent Spring," in 1972 the EPA effectively banned the use of DDT except in limited cases.</p> <p>Hazardous waste. In 1976, Congress passed the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, giving EPA the authority to regulate hazardous waste from cradle to grave. That act gives you the authority to regulate hazards from cradle to grave. That's what we're asking you to do.</p> <p>The climate. We're in the middle -- as I said, there's a mass extinction going on right now, if that isn't enough to open people's eyes. There's a lot going on on the planet.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>The power that these companies have is beyond what they should have, to be able to do what they are doing, when you have an agency that is supposed to regulate that, water is gold.</p> <p>Fracking. People had concerns about fracking before fracking started. Contamination of groundwater, methane pollution, air pollution, exposure to toxic chemicals, blowouts, waste disposal, large volume water in use in deficient areas where fracking is used, earthquakes.</p> <p>Storage for the wastewater can take place either on site in an injection well, or in open-air ponds in the surrounding areas. Transport of the waste poses a contamination risk outside the actual well location.</p> <p>Air pollution also extends beyond the immediate drilling site and transportation routes, since a by-product of natural gas drilling is methane gas, one of the worst greenhouse gas pollutants contributing to climate change. Fracking was said to be safe. They allowed it to happen. It's happening now. They were saying this is safe. Unless they can tell us 100 percent -- I don't care what study there is. There is not anything that says that there is not a risk. And if there is a risk, then we shouldn't do it.</p> <p>One more thing, the Environmental Protection Agency, you guys, the United States Geological Survey recently confirmed what residents of Pavilion, Wyoming, had been claiming, that</p>

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			<p>hydrofracking had contaminated their groundwater. I bet those people were told it was safe. I bet their groundwater, they told them, was going to be just fine.</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency initially, under an emergency administrative order -- (Request made by court reporter.)</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency initially, under an emergency administrative order, forced three oil production companies operating on the Fort Peck Reservation to reimburse the city of Poplar, Montana, for water infrastructure expenditures incurred as a result of drilling contamination.</p> <p>Again, I bet the people of Poplar, Montana, were told, Don't worry, it's going to be just fine. Case after case after case like this in the U.S. is happening. And if we can't learn from fracking, and if we can't learn from what's going on in the environment, and the concerns of these people, and the concerns of the Native Americans, this is wrong. And it -- it seems like a simple thing. And it gets complicated because big money likes to complicate it. And big money likes to come in and tell us that everything is going to be just fine. And it's not. We have proof of that.</p> <p>So I would urge you, we have -- we are putting our faith in you. And as somebody said prior, I know you're here to just listen to us, you're not the decision-makers. I appreciate you being here and taking the time.</p> <p>And I hope that these concerns are put forth legitimately and eloquently so that they can be understood. And I hope that we don't have to continue fighting for something as simple as having good, clean water.</p>
8065	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	You know it isnt safe, these injection activities. LIVE UP TO YOUR NAME, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY!!!! WAKE UP!!!!!! PICK A SIDE ALREADY!!!!!!!
8081	Anonymous	Individual	The Environmental Protection Agency is a publicly funded department that is accountable to taxpayers. We the People demand that the EPA protect us from the extreme risk posed by deep injection wells that will be used to dispose of ISR process waste fluids!
8102	Anonymous	Individual	The EPA is supposed to protect the environment, not hasten the pollution of it and endanger people.
8104	Anonymous	Individual	The EPA was supposed to Protect US, Not Destroy! [...]
8122	Anonymous	Individual	The EPA is supposed to protect the Environment, not sell it out to the highest bidder. Please do not allow this.
8130	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	<p>The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment. As Uranium is known to cause harm to human health, and the mining industries recurrent inability to properly manage these materials safely, I respectful insist that the EPA denying these permits.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)</p>

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8147	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	When you consider approvals for the Dewey-Burdock uranium project in Edgemont, South Dakota, please remember that the name of your agency, EPA, describes your #1 mission, to PROTECT the environment. It is your obligation to always keep that mission in mind. Thank you.
8174		Individual	As resident of Fall River County, South Dakota I must declare that is unconscionable for an agency that functions to protect the environment environment for the people to consider approving a mining process that directly threatens our precious water resources.
8175	Anonymous	Individual	As representatives of the EPA, your role is to make informed decisions that will not harm the public, who trust you to summarize and synthesize scientific knowledge to the best of your availability. I know you have access to such work. Please find relevant sources joint for reminder [...] useful sources: [HYPERLINK "https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK201047/"] <i>Uranium Mining in Virginia: Scientific, Technical, Environmental, Human Health and Safety, and Regulatory Aspects of Uranium Mining and Processing in Virginia; 5 Potential Human Health Effects of Uranium Mining, Processing, and Reclamation</i> https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0265931X1530076X <i>An evaluation of health risk to the public as a consequence of in situ uranium mining in Wyoming, USA</i> [HYPERLINK "https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0147651308000559"] <i>In situ bioassay with Eisenia andrei to assess soil toxicity in an abandoned uranium mine</i>
8181	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	Since human beings cannot manufacture water, we depend on people like you folks at our Environmental Protection Agency to protect the water that we do have. Thank you for your consideration of these concerns. Sincerely, Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
8183		Individual	Until the EPA asserts its authority as a protector of everyone's interest, Powertech's application should be scrapped. Sincerely, Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
8228	Anonymous	Individual	The EPA's role in case you've forgotten is to protect the environment and the people. Start doing just that.
8234	Anonymous	Individual	We should ALL CARE and demand that the EPA do its JOB and PROTECT the people from this contamination
8238	Anonymous	Individual	E-Environmental P- PROTECTION A-Agency. It's confounding why the State of South Dakota bothers with strict residential wastewater regulations when the Federal government is entertaining the idea of this project. It's just not environmentally safe.

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8253	Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)	Individual	The EPA is there to protect the Water. If you allow the use of thousands of gallons of our most precious resource for in situ mining you will be polluting the water..period. This is not protecting the water.
8261		Individual	The EPA was formed to protect public interest.
8272		Individual	As the EPA, please protect us!
8275		Individual	The modification of the draft permit in every case relax requirements meant to protect the public so the environmental protection agency should disapprove the permit for these waste injection wells. Thus doing their job - - protecting the people.
8275		Individual	This attempt is ridiculous – stop this project immediately or don’t continue to claim you are the environmental “protection” agency.
8275		Individual	Please deny the permit(s). We expect the EPA to protect the environment; not allow anything toxic. It’s simply not logical.
8275		Individual	Isn’t the EPA supposed to protect our environment? Please protect our water & stop uranium mining!!
8283		Individual	The EPA was created to protect the land and keep it in good order for our children and grandchildren. <u>Thank you for your consideration,</u> <u>Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)</u>
8296		Individual	The EPA was established to protect the citizens, to always safeguard our natural resources. This is a time when our EPA can stand up and do what is right. Protect our Water!